

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A light modulator modulating light by changing a reflection direction of incident light, comprising:

a light reflection film regularly reflecting incident light;

5 a center beam which is formed out of a thin film constituted to be combined with said light reflection film, which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic force, said reflection film provided on one surface of said center beam;

a substrate electrode which is opposed to said center beam  
10 through a gap formed on the other surface of said center beam;

an opposed surface which is a surface of said substrate electrode opposed to said center beam modulating the incident light on said light reflection film, said opposed surface restricting deformation of said center beam due to application of a driving  
15 voltage to said substrate electrode by abutting on said center beam; and

a substrate which has said substrate electrode having said opposed surface, formed in a concave section, and which holds a to-be-held section of said center beam.

20

2. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein said light reflection film is formed out of a metallic thin film.

25

10050835-011802

3. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
said center beam is formed out of a low resistance material.

4. The light modulator according to claim 3, wherein  
5 the low resistance material of said center beam is formed  
by decreasing resistance of silicon by diffusing impurities into  
said silicon.

5. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
10 said center beam is formed out of a monocrystalline silicon  
film.

6. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
said center beam is formed out of a polycrystalline silicon  
15 film.

7. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
said center beam is formed out of a silicon nitride thin  
film.  
20

8. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
two edges on the both ends, opposed each other, of the  
to-be-held section of said center beam are fixed to the substrate.

25

9. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein

a distance between one edge and the other edge of the two edges on the both ends, opposed each other, of said center beam held by the substrate is fixed to be equal to or larger than a length  
5 of one of said one edge and said other edge of said two edges.

10. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein

a plurality of light reflection films, a plurality of center beams and a plurality of substrate electrodes are arranged in a  
10 form of a one-dimensional array on said substrate.

11. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein

a plurality of light reflection films, a plurality of center beams and a plurality of substrate electrodes are arranged in a  
15 form of a two-dimensional array on said substrate.

12. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein

the opposed surface of said substrate electrode consists of a parallel opposed surface which is a parallel surface opposed  
20 to said center beam.

13. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein

the opposed surface of said substrate electrode consists of a partially non-parallel opposed surface which is a partially  
25 non-parallel surface opposed to said center beam.

20250805 011802

14. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
the opposed surface of said substrate electrode consists  
of a plurality of non-parallel opposed surfaces which are  
5 non-parallel surfaces opposed to said center beam.

15. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
the opposed surface of said substrate electrode consists  
of an entirely non-parallel opposed surface which is an entirely  
10 non-parallel surface opposed to said center beam.

16. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
said substrate is made of a light transmission glass material.

15 17. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
said substrate is made of a monocrystalline silicon material.

18. The light modulator according to claim 17, wherein  
a part of or all of a driving circuit is formed in the  
20 monocrystalline silicon material of said substrate.

19. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
the gap formed between said center beam held by said substrate  
and the substrate electrode opposed to said center beam and formed  
25 on the concave section of said substrate, consists of a non-parallel

inclined surface.

20. The light modulator according to claim 19, wherein

the gap formed between said center beam and the substrate  
5 electrode opposed to said center beam and consisting of the  
non-parallel inclined surface, is shaped to be the largest in a  
central section of said center beam held by said substrate and to  
gradually enlarge from said two edges on the opposed both ends of  
said center beam toward said central section of said center beam.

10

21. The light modulator according to claim 19, wherein

the gap formed between said center beam and the substrate  
electrode opposed to said center beam and consisting of the  
non-parallel, inclined surface, is shaped to be the largest in a  
15 central section of said center beam held by said substrate and to  
gradually enlarge from said two edges on the opposed both ends of  
said center beam and other two edges of said center beam toward  
said central section of said center beam.

20 22. The light modulator according to claim 19, wherein

the gap formed between said center beam and the substrate  
electrode opposed to said center beam and consisting of the  
non-parallel, inclined surface, is shaped to be the largest near  
one of the two edges on the opposed both ends of said center beam  
25 held by said substrate and to gradually enlarge from the other edge

of said two edges on the opposed both ends of said center beam held by said substrate toward said one edge.

23. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein

5 the gap formed between said center beam and the substrate electrode opposed to said center beam, consists of a non-parallel inclined surface between two edges on the both ends, opposed each other, of said center beam held by the substrate.

10 24. The light modulator according to claim 23, wherein

the gap formed between said center beam and the substrate electrode opposed to said center beam and consisting of the non-parallel inclined surface, is shaped to be the largest in a central section of said center beam held by said substrate and to  
15 gradually enlarge from said two edges on the opposed both ends of said center beam toward said central section of said center beam.

25. The light modulator according to claim 23, wherein

the gap formed between said center beam and the substrate  
20 electrode opposed to said center beam and consisting of the non-parallel inclined surface, is shaped to be the largest in a central section of said center beam held by said substrate and to gradually enlarge from said two edges on the opposed both ends of said center beam and other two edges of said center beam toward  
25 said central section of said center beam.

26. The light modulator according to claim 23, wherein

the gap formed between said center beam and the substrate electrode opposed to said center beam and consisting of the non-parallel inclined surface, is shaped to be the largest near one of the two edges on the opposed both ends of said center beam held by said substrate and to gradually enlarge from the other edge of said two edges on the opposed both ends of said center beam held by said substrate toward said one edge.

27. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein

the to-be-held section of said center beam held by the substrate consists of a plurality of divided to-be-held sections.

28. The light modulator according to claim 27, wherein

said divided to-be-held sections are arranged in a corner section of said center beam.

29. The light modulator according to claim 27, wherein

said divided to-be-held sections each has a connection section connected to said center beam having a smooth outline section.

30. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein

the to-be-held section of said center beam held by the substrate consists of a folded structure section.

10050855-01802

31. The light modulator according to claim 13, wherein  
the to-be-held section of said center beam held by the  
substrate near a portion, in which a gap formed between at least  
said center beam and the substrate electrode opposed to said center  
beam and consisting of a non-parallel inclined surface has a largest  
clearance, consists of a plurality of divided to-be-held sections.

32. The light modulator according to claim 13, wherein  
the to-be-held section of said center beam held by the  
substrate near a portion, in which a gap formed between at least  
said center beam and the substrate electrode opposed to said center  
beam and consisting of a non-parallel inclined surface has a largest  
clearance, consists of a folded structure section.

33. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
said center beam consists of a member having a tensile stress.

34. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
if combinations of thicknesses (t) of a plurality of members  
constituted to be combined with said center beam and stresses (s)  
including a tensile stress with a plus sign and a compressive stress  
with a minus sign are  $(t_1, s_1), (t_2, s_2), \dots (t_n, s_n)$ , said center  
beam satisfies  $t_1 \cdot s_1 + t_2 \cdot s_2 + \dots + t_n \cdot s_n / t_1 + t_2 + \dots + t_n = 0$ .



2008T0"5980900T  
10050865.01302

35. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
said center beam has a relationship of  $(t/l)^2 = s/E$  with respect  
to a tensile stress (s), a thickness (t), Young's modulus (E) of  
a formation material, a distance (l) between one edge and the other  
5 edge of two edges on the both ends, opposed each other, of said  
center beam.
36. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
all of or a part of a driving circuit driving the center  
10 beam is formed on said substrate.
37. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
said center beam is abutted on a surface of said substrate  
and deformed along a clearance shape of a gap formed on the other  
15 surface of said center beam by the electronic force generated by  
the application of the driving voltage to a portion between said  
center beam and said substrate electrode.
38. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein  
20 after said center beam is deformed by the electronic force  
generated by the application of the driving voltage to a portion  
between said center beam and said substrate electrode, a voltage  
opposite in polarity to the driving voltage is applied to the portion  
between said center beam and said substrate electrode to an extent  
25 not to deform said center beam.

39. The light modulator according to claim 1, wherein

said center beam is deformed by alternately applying, as the driving voltage, a positive voltage and a negative voltage to a portion between said center beam and said substrate electrode with reference to a potential of said center beam.

40. A method of manufacturing a light modulator modulating light by changing a reflection direction of incident light, said light modulator comprising: a light reflection film regularly reflecting incident light; a center beam which is formed out of a thin film constituted to be combined with said light reflection film, which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic force, said reflection film provided on one surface of said center beam; a substrate electrode which is opposed to said center beam through a gap formed on the other surface of said center beam; an opposed surface which is a surface of said substrate electrode opposed to said center beam modulating the incident light on said light reflection film, said opposed surface restricting deformation of said center beam due to application of a driving voltage to said substrate electrode by abutting on said center beam; and a substrate which has said substrate electrode having said opposed surface, formed in a concave section, and which holds a to-be-held section of said center beam, wherein

after forming the gap on said substrate, a sacrificial

material layer made of a sacrificial material is formed to flatten said substrate, said center beam is formed, and then said sacrificial material layer is removed to thereby manufacture said light modulator.

5

41. The method of manufacturing a light modulator according to claim 40 comprising:

a concave section formation step of forming the concave section on the substrate by a thin film formation method or a micromachining method;

a substrate electrode formation step of forming all of or a part of the substrate electrode in said concave section on said substrate;

a sacrificial material layer formation step of forming the sacrificial material layer made of the sacrificial material, in said concave section on said substrate;

a center beam formation step of forming the center beam on said sacrificial material layer; and

a sacrificial material layer removal step of removing said sacrificial material layer in said concave section.

42. The method of manufacturing a light modulator according to claim 40, wherein

said sacrificial material layer is a silicon oxide film.

25

43. The method of manufacturing a light modulator according to claim 40, wherein

said sacrificial material layer is one of a polycrystalline silicon film and an amorphous silicon film.

5

44. The method of manufacturing a light modulator according to claim 40, wherein

said sacrificial material layer is an organic material film.

10 45. A light information processing apparatus processing light information using a light modulator modulating light by changing a reflection direction of an incident light beam, comprising:

a plurality of light modulators each of which modulates the light by changing the reflection direction of an incident light beam, and each of which comprises: a light reflection film regularly reflecting incident light; a center beam which is formed out of a thin film constituted to be combined with said light reflection film, which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic force, said reflection film provided on one surface of said center beam; a substrate electrode which is opposed to said center beam through a gap formed on the other surface of said center beam; an opposed surface which is a surface of said substrate electrode opposed to said center beam modulating the incident light on said light reflection film, said opposed surface restricting deformation  
15  
20  
25 of said center beam due to application of a driving voltage to said

substrate electrode by abutting on said center beam; and a substrate which has said substrate electrode having said opposed surface, formed in a concave section, and which holds a to-be-held section of said center beam; and

5           an independent driving unit which drives said plurality of light modulators independently of one another.

46.   An image formation apparatus forming an image by wiring optical data by an electrophotographic process, comprising:

10           an image carrier which is rotatably held, and which carries a to-be-formed image;

          a latent image formation unit which forms a latent image by writing the optical data on said image carrier, and which consists of a light modulator, said light modulator which modulates light  
15   by changing a reflection direction of incident light, and which comprises: a light reflection film regularly reflecting incident light; a center beam which is formed out of a thin film constituted to be combined with said light reflection film, which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic force, said reflection  
20   film provided on one surface of said center beam; a substrate electrode which is opposed to said center beam through a gap formed on the other surface of said center beam; an opposed surface which is a surface of said substrate electrode opposed to said center beam modulating the incident light on said light reflection film,  
25   said opposed surface restricting deformation of said center beam

due to application of a driving voltage to said substrate electrode by abutting on said center beam; and a substrate which has said substrate electrode having said opposed surface, formed in a concave section, and which holds a to-be-held section of said center beam;

5        a development unit which develops the latent image formed by said light modulator of said latent image formation unit, and which forms a toner image; and

         a transfer unit which transfers the toner image formed by said development unit onto a to-be-transferred body.

10

47.    An image projection and display apparatus projecting and displaying an image, comprising:

         a light switching unit which consists of a light modulator, said light modulator modulating light by changing a reflection direction of incident light, and comprising: a light reflection film regularly reflecting incident light; a center beam which is formed out of a thin film constituted to be combined with said light reflection film, which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic force, said reflection film provided on one surface of said center beam; a substrate electrode which is opposed to said center beam through a gap formed on the other surface of said center beam; an opposed surface which is a surface of said substrate electrode opposed to said center beam modulating the incident light on said light reflection film, said opposed surface restricting deformation of said center beam due to application of a driving

15

20

25

voltage to said substrate electrode by abutting on said center beam;  
and a substrate which has said substrate electrode having said  
opposed surface, formed in a concave section, and which holds a  
to-be-held section of said center beam; and

5           a projection screen displaying the image projected by said  
light modulator of said light switching unit.

48.    A light modulator modulating light by changing a reflection  
direction of incident light, comprising:

10           a reflection unit which regularly reflects light;

          a thin film, both-end-fixed beam which is formed out of a  
thin film constituted to be combined with said reflection unit  
provided on one side surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam,  
which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic

15    force;

          a substrate electrode which is opposed to said thin film,  
both-end-fixed beam, and which applies a driving voltage;

          a gap which is formed by opposing said substrate electrode  
to said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, and which is formed on the  
20   other side surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam;

          a substrate which has said substrate electrode formed on  
a bottom of said gap, formed in a concave section and which holds  
and fixes the both ends of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam;  
and

25           a hole section which is formed in said thin film,

both-end-fixed beam above said gap, and which makes a section of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam corresponding to said hole section deformed more easily than remaining sections of said hole section.

5

49. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein the reflection unit is made of a metallic thin film.

50. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein  
10 the thin film, both-end-fixed beam is made of monocrystalline silicon.

51. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein  
15 the thin film, both-end-fixed beam is made of polycrystalline silicon.

52. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein the thin film, both-end-fixed beam is made of silicon nitride.

20 53. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein the gap is non-parallel between the thin film, both-end-fixed beam and the substrate electrode.

25



54. The light modulator according to claim 53, wherein  
the gap has an apex angle section on a substrate electrode-side  
bottom.

5 55. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein  
the hole section is rectangular.

56. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein  
the hole section is circular.

10

57. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein  
a plurality of the hole sections are arranged in a direction  
equal to a tangential direction of a fixed end of the thin film,  
both-end-fixed beam.

15

58. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein  
a plurality of the hole sections are arranged in a direction  
perpendicular to a tangential direction of a fixed end of the thin  
film, both-end-fixed beam.

20

59. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein  
the hole section is arranged so that one of a long diameter  
direction and a long edge direction is equal to a tangential direction  
of a fixed end of the thin film, both-end-fixed beam.

25

60. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein  
the hole section is arranged at an opposed position near  
an apex angle section of the gap.

5 61. The light modulator according to claim 48, wherein  
the reflection unit is arranged at a position of the hole  
section in contact with an edge.

62. A method of manufacturing a light modulator, said light  
10 modulator modulating light by changing a reflection direction of  
incident light and comprising: a reflection unit which regularly  
reflects light; a thin film, both-end-fixed beam which is formed  
out of a thin film constituted to be combined with said reflection  
unit provided on one side surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed  
15 beam, which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic  
force; a substrate electrode which is opposed to said thin film,  
both-end-fixed beam, and which applies a driving voltage; a gap  
which is formed by opposing said substrate electrode to said thin  
film, both-end-fixed beam, and which is formed on the other side  
20 surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; a substrate which  
has said substrate electrode formed on a bottom of said gap, formed  
in a concave section and which holds and fixes the both ends of  
said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; and a hole section which is  
formed in said thin film, both-end-fixed beam above said gap, and  
25 which makes a section of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam

corresponding to said hole section deformed more easily than remaining sections of said hole section, wherein

after forming a gap, which become the gap, on said substrate, a sacrificial material layer made of a sacrificial material is formed  
5 to flatten said substrate, said thin film, both-end-fixed beam and said hole section are formed, and then said sacrificial material layer is removed to thereby manufacture said light modulator.

63. The method of manufacturing a light modulator according to  
10 claim 62, comprising:

a concave section formation step of forming the concave section, which becomes the gap, on the substrate by a thin film formation method or a micromachining method;

a substrate electrode formation step of forming all of or  
15 a part of the substrate electrode in said concave section on said substrate;

a sacrificial material layer formation step of forming the sacrificial material layer made of the sacrificial material, in said concave section on said substrate;

20 a flattening step of polishing and flattening said sacrificial material layer;

a thin film, both-end-fixed beam formation step of forming the thin film, both-end-fixed beam and the hole section on said sacrificial material layer; and

25 a sacrificial material layer removal step of removing said

sacrificial material layer in the concave section on said substrate.

64. An image formation apparatus forming an image by wiring optical data by an electrophotographic process, comprising:

5 an image carrier which is rotatably held, and which carries a to-be-formed image;

10 a latent image formation unit which forms a latent image by writing the optical data on said image carrier, and which consists of a light modulator, said light modulator which modulates light by changing a reflection direction of incident light, and which comprises: a reflection unit which regularly reflects light; a thin film, both-end-fixed beam which is formed out of a thin film constituted to be combined with said reflection unit provided on one side surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, which has  
15 both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic force; a substrate electrode which is opposed to said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, and which applies a driving voltage; a gap which is formed by opposing said substrate electrode to said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, and which is formed on the other side  
20 surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; a substrate which has said substrate electrode formed on a bottom of said gap, formed in a concave section and which holds and fixes the both ends of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; and a hole section which is formed in said thin film, both-end-fixed beam above said gap, and  
25 which makes a section of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam

corresponding to said hole section deformed more easily than remaining sections of said hole section;

a development unit which develops the latent image formed by said light modulator of said latent image formation unit, and  
5 which forms a toner image; and

a transfer unit which transfers the toner image formed by said development unit onto a to-be-transferred body:

65. An image projection and display apparatus projecting and  
10 displaying an image, comprising:

a light switching unit which consists of a light modulator, said light modulator which modulates light by changing a reflection direction of incident light, and which comprises: a reflection unit which regularly reflects light; a thin film, both-end-fixed beam  
15 which is formed out of a thin film constituted to be combined with said reflection unit provided on one side surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic force; a substrate electrode which is opposed to said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, and which applies a driving  
20 voltage; a gap which is formed by opposing said substrate electrode to said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, and which is formed on the other side surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; a substrate which has said substrate electrode formed on a bottom of said gap, formed in a concave section and which holds and fixes  
25 the both ends of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; and a hole

section which is formed in said thin film, both-end-fixed beam above said gap, and which makes a section of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam corresponding to said hole section deformed more easily than remaining sections of said hole section; and

5 a projection screen displaying the image projected by said light modulator of said light switching unit.

66. A light modulator modulating light by deforming a beam which reflects light, by an electrostatic force, wherein

10 an electrode acting the electrostatic force on said beam is provided inside a recess of a substrate opened to an upper surface of said substrate, said beam held by said substrate at a position opposed to said electrode so as to be projected from the upper surface of said substrate; and

15 a non-parallel gap is formed between said beam and said recess in a state in which no electrostatic force acts on said beam, said non-parallel gap being generally rectangular between a plane including the upper surface of said substrate and said beam.

20 67. The light modulator according to claim 66, wherein said beam is a both-end-fixed beam having both ends fixed to the upper surface of said substrate, the fixed both ends of said beam being generally L-shaped.

25

68. The light modulator according to claim 66, comprising:  
a support proximate to a fixed end of said beam to assist  
in recovery of said beam when the electrostatic force acting on  
said beam is released.

5

69. The light modulator according to claim 68, wherein  
said support is made of a material equal to a material of  
the beam.

10 70. The light modulator according to claim 66, wherein  
said beam consists of a film having a tensile residual stress.

71. A method of manufacturing a light modulator modulating light  
by deforming a beam which reflects light, by an electrostatic force,  
15 wherein

an electrode acting the electrostatic force on said beam  
is provided inside a recess of a substrate opened to an upper surface  
of said substrate, said beam held by said substrate at a position  
opposed to said electrode so as to be projected from the upper surface  
20 of said substrate; and

a non-parallel gap is formed between said beam and said recess  
in a state in which no electrostatic force acts on said beam, said  
non-parallel gap being generally rectangular between a plane  
including the upper surface of said substrate and said beam, the  
25 method comprising the steps of:

10050866 014800

forming said recess in said substrate;  
forming said electrode inside said recess;  
forming a protection layer which covers said electrode;  
depositing a sacrificial layer on an entire surface of said

5 substrate;

patterning said sacrificial layer to correspond to said beam  
by a photo-engraving method;

forming said beam; and  
removing said sacrificial layer.

10

72. A method of manufacturing a light modulator modulating light  
by deforming a beam which reflects light, by an electrostatic force,  
wherein

an electrode acting the electrostatic force on said beam  
15 is provided inside a recess of a substrate opened to an upper surface  
of said substrate, said beam held by said substrate at a position  
opposed to said electrode so as to be projected from the upper surface  
of said substrate;

a non-parallel gap is formed between said beam and said recess  
20 in a state in which no electrostatic force acts on said beam, said  
non-parallel gap being generally rectangular between a plane  
including the upper surface of said substrate and said beam; and

said light modulator includes a support proximate to a fixed  
end of said beam to assist in recovery of said beam when the  
25 electrostatic force acting on said beam is released



the method comprising the steps of:

forming said recess in said substrate;

forming said electrode inside said recess;

forming a protection layer which covers said electrode;

5        depositing a sacrificial layer on an entire surface of said  
substrate;

         patterning said sacrificial layer to correspond to said beam  
by a photo-engraving method;

         depositing an entire surface of a layer which constitutes  
10        said support;

         etching-back said layer which constitutes said support by  
anisotropic dry etching, and leaving said layer which constitutes  
said support on an end section of said patterned sacrificial layer;

         forming said beam; and

15        removing said sacrificial layer.

73.    A light modulator, wherein

         a fixed electrode, a beam which is opposed to said fixed  
electrode through a gap and which has a light reflection surface,

20        and a light emission element are formed in a same package;

         said beam is held to be deformable toward said fixed electrode  
by an electrostatic force when said beam is driven, light emitted  
from said light emission element is reflected by said light  
reflection surface on said beam in different directions between

25        a case in which said beam is driven and a case in which said beam

is not driven, and reflection light from said reflection surface is outputted to an outside of the package when said beam is driven or not driven.

5 74. The light modulator according to claim 73, wherein said beam is a both-end-fixed beam.

75. The light modulator according to claim 73, wherein said light emission element is an electroluminescence  
10 element.

76. The light modulator according to claim 73, wherein said fixed electrode and said beam are formed on a same substrate, and said light emission element is formed on a package  
15 upper cover connected to said substrate while being opposed to said beam.

77. The light modulator according to claim 76, wherein a convex section which converges the light emitted from said  
20 light emission element on said beam, is formed on said package upper cover.

78. The light modulator according to claim 73, wherein said fixed electrode, said beam and said light emission  
25 element are formed on a same substrate, and a concave mirror, which

converges the light emitted from said light emission element on said beam, is formed on a package upper cover connected to said substrate.

- 5 79. The light modulator according to claim 73, wherein  
said fixed electrode, said beam and said light emission  
element are formed on a same substrate, and a waveguide path, which  
guides the light emitted from said light emission element into said  
gap, is formed in said substrate.

10

80. The light modulator according to claim 73, wherein  
a shielding film is formed on a package upper cover, and  
the light reflected by the light reflection surface on said beam  
is outputted to an outside of the package through a window provided  
15 in the shielding film.

81. The light modulator according to claim 73, wherein  
the light emission element does not emit light while the  
beam is deformed.

20

82. A light modulator modulating light by changing a reflection  
direction of incident light, comprising:

a reflection unit which regularly reflects the incident  
light;

25

a thin film, both-end-fixed beam which is formed out of a

thin film constituted to be combined with said reflection unit, which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic force, said light reflection unit provided on one surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam;

5        a substrate electrode which is opposed to the other side surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, and which applies a driving voltage;

         a gap which is formed by opposing said substrate electrode to said thin film, both-end-fixed beam;

10       a substrate which has said substrate electrode formed in a bottom of said gap, and which holds both ends of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; and

         a cover member which is formed to be attached onto said substrate, which includes said thin film, both-end-fixed beam and  
15       said gap in a vacuum space, and which is made of a light transmission material.

83.     The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
         said thin film, both-end beam is made of a monocrystalline  
20       silicon thin film.

84.     The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
         said thin film, both-end beam is made of a polycrystalline  
         silicon thin film.

25

85. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
said thin film, both-end beam is made of an amorphous silicon  
thin film.

5 86. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
said thin film, both-end beam is made of a silicon nitride  
thin film.

10 87. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
said thin film, both-end beam is made of a metallic thin  
film.

15 88. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
the gap which is formed by opposing said substrate electrode  
to said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, is non-parallel.

89. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
a part of or all of said thin film, both-end beam is abutted  
on a bottom of the gap formed on said substrate when said thin film,  
20 both-end beam is deformed by an electronic force which is generated  
when said substrate electrodes applies the driving voltage.

90. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
said substrate is made of monocrystalline silicon.

25

91. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
said substrate is made of optical glass.
92. The light modulator according to claim 91, wherein  
5 said substrate is made of a transparent conductive film.
93. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
said cover member is made of a glass material.
- 10 94. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
a getter material is formed in the vacuum space formed by  
said substrate and said cover member.
95. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
15 an attachment section which attaches said substrate to said  
cover member, consists of a metallic seal layer.
96. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
a difference in coefficient of thermal expansion between  
20 said cover member and said substrate is not more than 0 to 30%.
97. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
said cover member has at least one of a lens, an anti-reflection  
film and a shielding film formed in a path of the incident light  
25 on said reflection unit.

98. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
said cover member has at least one of a lens, an anti-reflection  
film and a shielding film formed in a path of reflection light from  
said reflection unit.

5

99. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
said cover member comprises an engraved section formed in  
an attachment section attached to said substrate.

10 100. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
said thin film, both-end-fixed beam formed on said substrate  
is hexagonal-shaped.

101. The light modulator according to claim 82, wherein  
15 a plurality of light modulators are arranged in a form of  
one of a one-dimensional array and a two-dimensional array.

102. The light modulator according to claim 101, wherein  
said plurality of light modulators are arranged in a staggered  
20 fashion in the form of one of the one-dimensional array and the  
two-dimensional array.

103. A method of manufacturing a light modulator which modulates  
light by changing a reflection direction of incident light, and  
25 which comprises: a reflection unit which regularly reflects the

incident light; a thin film, both-end-fixed beam which is formed out of a thin film constituted to be combined with said reflection unit, which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic force, said light reflection unit provided on one surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; a substrate electrode which is opposed to the other side surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, and which applies a driving voltage; a gap which is formed by opposing said substrate electrode to said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; a substrate which has said substrate electrode formed in a bottom of said gap, and which holds both ends of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; and a cover member which is formed to be attached onto said substrate, which includes said thin film, both-end-fixed beam and said gap in a vacuum space, and which is made of a light transmission material, wherein

said gap, which is formed by opposing said substrate electrode to said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, is formed on said substrate, a sacrificial material layer made of a sacrificial material is formed to flatten said substrate, said thin film, both-end-fixed beam is formed, said sacrificial material layer is removed and then said cover member is attached onto said substrate, thereby forming said light modulator.

104. The method of manufacturing a light modulator according to claim 103, comprising:

a gap formation step of forming said gap which is formed



on said substrate by opposing said thin film, both-end-fixed beam to said substrate electrode, by a thin film formation method or a micromachining method;

5 a substrate electrode formation step of forming all of or a part of said substrate electrode on the bottom of said gap on said substrate;

10 a sacrificial material layer formation step of forming said sacrificial material layer made of said sacrificial material, in said gap on said substrate, and then polishing and flattening said sacrificial material layer;

a thin film, both-end-fixed beam formation step of forming said thin film, both-end-fixed beam on said sacrificial material layer;

15 a sacrificial material layer removal step of removing said sacrificial material layer in said gap;

an opening section formation step of forming an opening section which connects said substrate electrode to an outside; and

a cover member attachment step of attaching said cover member onto said substrate.

20

105. The method of manufacturing a light modulator according to claim 103, wherein

25 said cover member attached onto said substrate by said attachment section is manufactured at a formation step which comprises:

a cover member substrate formation step;  
a lens formation step;  
an engraved section formation step; and  
a shielding film formation step.

5

106. An image formation apparatus forming an image by wiring optical data by an electrophotographic process, comprising:

an image carrier which is rotatably held, and which carries a to-be-formed image;

10 a latent image formation unit which forms a latent image by writing the optical data on said image carrier, and which consists of a light modulator, said light modulator which modulates light by changing a reflection direction of incident light, and which comprises: a reflection unit which regularly reflects the incident  
15 light; a thin film, both-end-fixed beam which is formed out of a thin film constituted to be combined with said reflection unit, which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic force, said light reflection unit provided on one surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; a substrate electrode which is  
20 opposed to the other side surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, and which applies a driving voltage; a gap which is formed by opposing said substrate electrode to said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; a substrate which has said substrate electrode formed in a bottom of said gap, and which holds both ends of said  
25 thin film, both-end-fixed beam; and a cover member which is formed

to be attached onto said substrate, which includes said thin film, both-end-fixed beam and said gap in a vacuum space, and which is made of a light transmission material;

a development unit which develops the latent image formed  
5 by said light modulator of said latent image formation unit, and which forms a toner image; and

a transfer unit which transfers said toner image formed by said development unit onto a to-be-transferred body.

10 107. An image projection and display apparatus projecting and displaying an image, comprising:

a light switching unit which consists of a light modulator, said light modulator modulating light by changing a reflection direction of incident light, and comprising: a reflection unit which  
15 regularly reflects the incident light; a thin film, both-end-fixed beam which is formed out of a thin film constituted to be combined with said reflection unit, which has both ends fixed, and which is deformed by an electronic force, said light reflection unit provided on one surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam;  
20 a substrate electrode which is opposed to the other side surface of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam, and which applies a driving voltage; a gap which is formed by opposing said substrate electrode to said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; a substrate which has said substrate electrode formed in a bottom of said gap, and which holds  
25 both ends of said thin film, both-end-fixed beam; and a cover member

which is formed to be attached onto said substrate, which includes  
said thin film, both-end-fixed beam and said gap in a vacuum space,  
and which is made of a light transmission material; and

a projection screen displaying the image projected by said  
5 light modulator of said light switching unit.

208770" 011802